

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 868**

Introduced by Jensen, 20; Dierks, 40; Tyson, 19

Read first time January 20, 1999

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to health and human services; to amend sections
- 2 81-3002 and 81-3004, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998;
- 3 to change partnership intent provisions, accountability,
- 4 and report provisions; and to repeal the original
- 5 sections.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 81-3002, Revised Statutes Supplement,  
2 1998, is amended to read:

3           81-3002. The Legislature finds that promoting the  
4 general welfare of the citizens of Nebraska includes helping to  
5 ensure that each Nebraskan ~~should have~~ has a quality of life that  
6 reflects safety, self-sufficiency, respect, health and well-being,  
7 and opportunities to achieve maximum potential. The Legislature  
8 further finds that the role of state government in achieving this  
9 vision includes the support of locally based, public and private  
10 sector providers of health and human services and the direct  
11 provision of such services when necessary and appropriate. through  
12 new partnerships between the state and local communities. The  
13 Legislature further finds that in order to achieve this vision, it  
14 is necessary to create and sustain a unified, accessible, caring,  
15 competent, and responsive health and human services system for each  
16 Nebraskan that maximizes local determination and achieves  
17 measurable outcomes. To this end, the state will work in  
18 partnership with communities and other public and private sector  
19 entities. The Legislature finds that one purpose of Laws 1996, LB  
20 1044, is to reduce the size of state personnel and reduce state  
21 expenditures with a focus on local control and which considers  
22 privatization of services.

23           Sec. 2. Section 81-3004, Revised Statutes Supplement,  
24 1998, is amended to read:

25           81-3004. The directors of the departments shall consult  
26 with the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and  
27 shall report periodically to the committee such information and in  
28 such form as the committee may require. The health and human

1 ~~services system shall~~ The Department of Health and Human Services  
2 Finance and Support shall establish a position with responsibility  
3 to respond to questions, concerns, and complaints from consumers,  
4 service providers, elected officials, and interested citizens in  
5 order to ensure high levels of accountability with consumers,  
6 service providers, elected officials, and interested citizens under  
7 the Nebraska Partnership for Health and Human Services Act. A  
8 toll-free telephone number shall also be made available and be made  
9 public for these purposes. The person in the position shall submit  
10 a quarterly report to the Governor, Policy Cabinet, and  
11 Legislature.

12 Sec. 3. Original sections 81-3002 and 81-3004, Revised  
13 Statutes Supplement, 1998, are repealed.